

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /116 W

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R 200915Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9645

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 1879

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: MORE ON CONFUCIUS

REF: HONG KONG 1750

1. POSSIBLE ALLUSIONS TO PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CHOU EN-LAI HAVE APPEARED IN THE FEBRUARY 20 HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO (TKP), A PRC OWNED DAILY. OSTENSIBLY DESCRIBING CONFUCIUS, THE TKP AUTHOR WRITES THE SAGE WAS VERY "PARTICULAR" ABOUT WHAT HE WORE AND ATE; DWELT ON FOOD TO AN "ABSURD" DEGREE IN HIS CONVERSATIONS; CULTIVATED THE APPEARANCE OF A SERVILE "CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR" ("TSUNG KUAN," LIT. THE MAN WHO RUNS EVERYTHING. THE CHINESE WORD FOR PREMIER--"TSUNG LI"-- HAS THE SAME MEANING); AND WAS VERY GOOD AT "ACTING" ("TSO HSI," LIT. PERFORMING IN A PLAY. CHOU WAS AN EXCELLENT AMATEUR ACTOR). STILL SPEAKING OF CNFUCIUS THE AUTHOR ADDS THAT HE WAS "QUICK TO CHANGE ACCORDING TO CIRCUMSTANCES" BUT WAS NEVERTHELESS OVERTHROWN.

2. THE PIECE IS PROBABLY WRITTEN LOCALLY. YEN PING, THE  
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AUTHOR'S NAME (AN APPARENT PSEUDONYM), HAS APPEARED IN TKP ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. PARTS OF THE AARTICLE, HOLNVEGFN ARE

EXTRACTED FROM A PIECE ON CONFUCIUS THAT APPEARED IN THE SHANGHAI JOURNAL STUDY AND CRITICISM THIS JANUARY (REFTEL). THESE PORTIONS REFER TO THE DEFERENCE CONFUCIUS ALWAYS CAREFULLY PAID TO "THE EMPEROR," AND TO HIS CURT MANNER TOWARD SUBORDINATES.

3. COMMENT. LOCAL CADRE, SEVERAL OF WHOM WERE RECENTLY CALLED UP TO RONTON, HAVE BEEN STRIVING MIGHTILY TO DAMPEN HONG KONG JOURNALISTIC SPECULATION THAT CHOU IS A TARGET IN THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN. WE ARE NOT CLEAR AS TO TKP'S MOTIVES IT HAS ALSO RUN THE STUDY AND CRITICISM PIECE ON HU SHIH; REFTTEL), BUT ITS EMBELLISHMENT OF CONFUCIUS' SHORTCOMINGS MAY FUEL MORE SPECULATION THAN IT DAMPENS.  
ALLEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Subject:** MORE ON CONFUCIUS  
**TAGS:** PINT, CH, US, (CHOU EN-LAI)  
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